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June 5, 2025

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San Francisco leaders blast Trump for trying to erase gay rights icon Harvey Milk's name from ship

By JANIE HAR

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Leaders in San Francisco are blasting the Trump administration for stripping the name of gay rights activist Harvey Milk from a U.S. naval ship, and especially during Pride Month, when people gather to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community.

Milk is a revered figure in San Francisco history, a former city supervisor and gay rights advocate who was fatally shot along with Mayor George Moscone in 1978 by disgruntled former supervisor Dan White. Just last month, California marked what would have been Milk's 95th birthday with proclamations heralding his authenticity, kindness and calls for unity.

He served for four years in the Navy during the Korean War, before he was forced out for being gay. Milk later moved to San Francisco, where he became one of the first out gay politicians in the world with his election to the Board of Supervisors in 1977. Cleve Jones, a close friend and LGBTQ+ activist, dismissed the renaming as an attempt by the Trump administration to distract the American public from far more serious concerns, including the ongoing war in Gaza and



In this image provided by the U.S. Navy, the John Lewis-class replenishment oiler USNS Harvey Milk (T-AO-206) conducts a replenishment at sea in the Atlantic Ocean, Dec. 13, 2024.

Associated Press

looming cuts to Medicaid and Social Security.

"Yes, this is cruel and petty and stupid, and yes, it's an insult to my community," Jones said. "I would be willing to wager a considerable sum that American families sitting around that proverbial kitchen table this evening are not going to be talking about how much safer they feel now that Harvey's name is going to be taken off that ship."

The Pentagon has not con-

firmed news of the renaming, a highly rare move, but unnamed officials say the change was laid out in an internal memo. It is in keeping with attempts by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and the broader Trump administration to purge all programs, policies, books and social media mentions of references to diversity, equity and inclusion. A new name has not yet been selected for the USNS Harvey Milk.

Milk's nephew, Stuart

Milk, said in a phone call Wednesday that he and the Harvey Milk Foundation have reached out to the Pentagon, which confirmed there is a proposed name change on the table. "And our hope is that the recommendation is put aside, but if it's not, it will be a rallying cry not just for our community but for all minority communities," said Stuart Milk, who is executive chair of the foundation, adding that his uncle always said that gay rights,

and those of other marginalized communities, required constant vigilance. "So I don't think he'd be surprised," Milk said, "but he'd be calling on us to remain vigilant, to stay active."

Elected officials, including former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and California Gov. Gavin Newsom, called the move a shameful attempt to erase the contributions of LGBTQ+ people and an insult to fundamental American values of honoring veterans and those who worked to build a better country. Pelosi and Newsom are both San Francisco Democrats.

Newsom took aim at Hegseth, calling the attempt "A cowardly act from a man desperate to distract us from his inability to lead the Pentagon" on the social platform X.

In a statement, San Francisco Mayor Daniel Lurie said Milk dedicated his life to serving the city and country, and is a role model for all Americans. He did not mention Trump or Hegseth. The USNS Harvey Milk was named in 2016 by then-Navy Secretary Ray Mabus, who said at the time that the John Lewis-class of oilers would be named after leaders who fought for civil and human rights. □

Nebraska is the latest state to ban transgender students from girls' sports



Nebraska Gov. Jim Pillen is flanked by supporters Wednesday, June 4, 2025 as he signs into law a bill banning transgender athletes from girls' sports.

Associated Press

By MARGERY A. BECK

Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska Gov. Jim Pillen signed into law Wednesday a measure banning transgender students from girls' sports, making the state the latest to keep transgender athletes from competing on women's and girls' teams.

Pillen signed the law flanked by dozens of lawmakers, women athletes and other advocates including former collegiate swimmer Riley Gaines, who has made a name for herself as a vocal advocate of banning transgender athletes from women's sports. The measure passed by the Nebraska Legislature last week broke a filibuster by a single vote cast along party lines. It was pared down from its initial form, which also sought to bar transgender students from using bathrooms and locker rooms corresponding with their gender identity.

Sponsors agreed to drop the bathroom and locker room ban when one Republican Omaha Sen. Merv Riepe declared he would vote against it otherwise.

The measure was first introduced in 2023 by then-freshman Sen. Kathleen Kauth, but failed to advance as lawmakers angrily argued over Kauth's other bill that sought to bar gender-affirming care for transgender minors under the age of 19. An amended version that banned gender-affirming surgery but not all gender-affirming care for minors later passed and was enacted that year. □

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Inflation data threatened by government hiring freeze as tariffs loom

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Labor Department has cut back on the inflation data it collects because of the Trump administration's government hiring freeze, raising concerns among economists about the quality of the inflation figures just as they are being closely watched for the impact of tariffs.

The department's Bureau of Labor Statistics, which produces the monthly consumer price index, the most closely watched inflation measure, said Wednesday that it is "reducing sample in areas across the country" and added that it stopped collecting price data entirely in April in Lincoln, Nebraska, and Provo, Utah. It also said it has stopped collecting data this month in Buffalo, New York.

In an email that the BLS sent to economists, viewed by The Associated Press, the agency said that it "temporarily reduced the number of outlets and quotes it



The entrance to the Labor Department is seen near the Capitol in Washington, May 7, 2020.
Associated Press

attempted to collect due to a staffing shortage" in April. The reduced data collection "will be kept in place until the hiring freeze is lifted."

President Donald Trump froze federal hiring on his first day in office and ex-

tended the freeze in April until late July, suggesting future inflation reports will also involve less data collection.

The cutbacks have intensified worries among economists that government spending cuts could de-

grade the federal government's ability to compile key economic data on employment, prices, and the broader economy. The BLS also said last month that it will no longer collect wholesale prices in about 350 categories for its Producer

Price Index, a measure of price changes before they reach the consumer.

The cutbacks are also occurring at a time of heightened uncertainty about the economy and the impact of Trump's sweeping tariffs on hiring, growth and inflation. Officials at the Federal Reserve, for example, have repeatedly cited the cloudy outlook as a key reason they are no longer cutting their short-term interest rate, after reducing it three times late last year.

"The PPI is cutting hundreds of indexes from production, and the CPI is now being constructed with less data," Omair Sharif, chief economist at the consulting firm Inflation Insights, said in an email. "That alone is worrying given that we're heading into the teeth of the tariff impact on prices."

The BLS said that the cutbacks "have minimal impact" on the overall inflation data, but "they may increase the volatility" of the reported prices of specific items. □

Pennsylvania is suing the USDA over cutting funding to a \$1 billion food aid program for states

By MARC LEVY
Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Pennsylvania sued the U.S. Department of Agriculture on Wednesday, saying the agency, under President Donald Trump, had illegally cut off funding to it through a program designed to distribute more than \$1 billion in aid to states to purchase food from farms for schools, child care centers, and food banks.

The lawsuit in federal court, announced by Gov. Josh Shapiro, a Democrat, comes three months after the USDA advised states that it was ending the pandemic-era assistance program because it no longer reflected agency priorities.

"I don't get what the hell their priorities are

if not feeding people and taking care of our farmers," Shapiro said at a news conference at a food bank warehouse in Philadelphia.

The USDA declined comment Wednesday. The lawsuit, filed in federal court in Harrisburg, asks the court to reverse the USDA's decision to end the reimbursement program.

Shapiro's administration, in the lawsuit, said the USDA's termination of the contract was illegal, saying the USDA didn't explain why it no longer reflected agency priorities and that the contract didn't expressly allow the USDA to terminate it for those reasons.

Shapiro said he was confident that Pennsylvania would win the lawsuit. □



Governor Josh Shapiro speaks during a news conference regarding the shooting at UPMC Memorial Hospital in York, Pa. on Feb. 22, 2025.

Associated Press

Justice Department sues Texas over in-state tuition for students without legal residency

By JIM VERTUNO AND NADIA LATHAN

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The Justice Department on Wednesday sought to block a Texas law that for decades has given college students without legal residency in the U.S. access to reduced in-state tuition rates, the latest effort by the Trump administration to crack down on immigration into the country.

Texas was the first state in the nation in 2001 to pass a law allowing "Dreamers," or young adults without legal status, to be eligible for in-state tuition if they meet certain residency criteria. And while two dozen states now have similar laws, the Trump administration filed the lawsuit in conservative Texas, where Republican Gov. Greg Abbott and state lawmakers have long sought to support his hard-line goals on the border.

The lawsuit also comes just a few days after the end of the state legislative session, where a repeal bill pushed by group of Republicans was considered but ultimately did not come up for a vote.

The lawsuit now asks a fed-



In this Sept. 27, 2012, file photo, students walk through the University of Texas at Austin campus near the school's iconic tower in Austin, Texas.

Associated Press

eral judge to block the Texas law. It leans into recent executive orders signed by Trump designed to stop any state or local laws or regulations the administration feels discriminate against legal residents.

"Under federal law, schools cannot provide benefits to illegal aliens that they do not provide to U.S. citizens," said Attorney General Pam Bondi said. "The Justice Department will relentlessly fight to vindicate federal law and ensure that U.S. citizens are not treated like second-class citizens any-

where in the country." Texas has about 57,000 undocumented students enrolled in its public universities and colleges, according to the Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration, a non-partisan nonprofit group of university leaders focused on immigration policy. The state has about 690,000 students overall at its public universities. Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and state Attorney General Ken Paxton, did not immediately comment on the lawsuit, and staff did

not immediately respond to email messages seeking comment.

The lawsuit was filed in the Wichita Falls division of the Northern District of Texas, which the state and conservative litigants have often chosen to file lawsuits challenging the federal government and issues such as healthcare and gay and transgender rights. The Texas law was initially passed by sweeping majorities in the Texas Legislature and signed into law by then-Gov. Rick Perry, a Republican, as a way to open

access to higher education for students without legal residency already living in the state. Supporters then and now argue it boosts the state's economy by creating a better educated and better prepared work force.

"Targeted attacks on Texas students who are seeking an affordable college education, led by the Trump administration, won't help anyone, they only hurt us all," said Luis Figueroa of Every Texan, a left-leaning public policy group.

The difference in tuition rates are substantial. For example, at the flagship University of Texas at Austin, a state resident paid about \$11,000 in tuition for the 2024-2025 academic year compared to about \$41,000 for students from outside of Texas.

The law allows for students without legal resident status to qualify for in-state tuition if they have lived in the state for three years before graduating from high school, and for a year before enrolling in college. They must also sign an affidavit promising to apply for legal resident status as soon as possible. □

2 arrested with arsenal and Nazi paraphernalia after base robbery were ex-military, prosecutors say

By GENE JOHNSON

Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Two men ar-

rested in Washington state with an arsenal that included grenade launchers and

body armor, along with Nazi paraphernalia, were former military members who attacked a soldier with a hammer while stealing gear from Joint Base Lewis-McChord last weekend, investigators say.

Levi Austin Frakes and Charles Ethan Fields were arrested Monday night at their home in Lacey, near Olympia, according to a criminal complaint filed Wednesday in U.S. District Court. Federal court records did not list an attorney for either man.

One of the defendants told investigators they had been stealing equipment from the base for the past two years to sell or trade, and agents found about \$24,000 in cash at the

home, wrote Special Agent Christopher J. Raguse of the Army Criminal Investigation Division.

The federal complaint charges them with robbery, assault and theft of government property. They also face investigation on state charges of unlawful possession of incendiary devices, short-barreled rifles and a machine gun. Each was being held at the Pierce County Jail on \$500,000 bail. According to the complaint, a soldier entered a building at the Army Ranger compound at Joint Base Lewis-McChord on Sunday night and found two men, partially masked, with a cluster of U.S. Army property around them. The soldier questioned them about

what they were doing and told them to pull down their masks, which they did.

A fight ensued, and one of the men brandished a hammer and struck the soldier in the head. The soldier continued to fight despite losing a large amount of blood and managed to get control of the hammer at which point, one of the men pulled a knife.

The soldier then let them go, the complaint said.

During the fight, one of the men dropped his hat. It said "Fields" on the inside. Using base entry logs and surveillance video, investigators determined that Fields and Frakes had entered Lewis-McChord together about an hour before the attack, investigators said. □



In this undated photo released by the Thurston County Sheriff's Office, a cache of military weaponry and Nazi paraphernalia are photographed during a raid at a home in Lacey, Wash.

Associated Press

U.N. Security Council will vote on a resolution demanding a Gaza ceasefire, with U.S. veto expected

By EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

The U.N. Security Council will vote Wednesday on a resolution demanding an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza, and the Trump administration is expected to veto it because it does not link the ceasefire to the release of all the hostages held by Hamas. The resolution before the U.N.'s most powerful body also does not condemn Hamas' deadly attack in Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, which ignited the war, or say the militant group must disarm and withdraw from Gaza two other U.S. demands.

The U.S. vetoed the last resolution on Gaza in November, under the Biden administration, because the ceasefire demand was not directly linked to the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages. Similarly, the current resolution demands those taken by Hamas and other groups be released, but it does not make it a condition for a truce.

Calling the humanitarian situation in Gaza "catastrophic," the resolution, put forth by the 15-member council's 10 elected mem-



A Palestinian woman mourns as she embraces the body of her daughter Mayar Abu Odeh, 8, who was killed in an Israeli army strike on Gaza, at Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, Wednesday, June 4, 2025.

Associated Press

bers, also calls for "the immediate and unconditional lifting of all restrictions on the entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza and its safe and unhindered distribution at scale, including by the U.N. and humanitarian partners."

President Donald Trump's administration has tried to ramp up its efforts to broker peace in Gaza after 20 months of war. However,

Hamas has sought amendments to a U.S. proposal that special envoy Steve Witkoff has called "totally unacceptable."

The vote follows a decision by an Israeli and U.S.-backed foundation to pause food delivery at its three distribution sites in the Gaza Strip after health officials said dozens of Palestinians were killed in a series of shootings near the sites

this week. Israel and the United States say they supported the establishment of the new aid system to prevent Hamas from stealing aid previously distributed by the U.N.

The United Nations has rejected the new system, saying it doesn't address Gaza's mounting hunger crisis, allows Israel to use aid as a weapon and doesn't comply with the humani-

tarian principles of neutrality, impartiality and independence. The U.N. says its distribution system throughout Gaza worked very well during the March ceasefire and is carefully monitored. The resolution demands the restoration of all essential humanitarian services in line with humanitarian principles, international humanitarian law and U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Several U.N. diplomats from different countries, speaking on condition of anonymity because discussions have been private, said they expect the United States to veto the resolution. They also said they expect a similar vote to the one in November, when the 14 other council members supported the resolution.

Israel's U.N. Mission said Ambassador Danny Danon, who will speak after the vote, will say the resolution undermines humanitarian relief efforts and ignores Hamas, which is still endangering civilians in Gaza. He also will say the resolution disregards the ceasefire negotiations that are already underway, the mission said. □

Japan's annual births fall to record low as country's 'silent emergency' deepens

By MARI YAMAGUCHI

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — The number of newborns in Japan is decreasing faster than projected, with the number of annual births falling to a record low last year, according to government data released Wednesday. The Health Ministry said 686,061 babies were born in Japan in 2024, a drop of 5.7% on the previous year and the first time the number of newborns had fallen below 700,000 since records began in 1899.

The decline comes about 15 years faster than the government prediction. Last year's figure is about

one-quarter of the peak of 2.7 million births in 1949 during the postwar baby boom. The data in a country of rapidly aging and shrinking population adds to concern about the sustainability of the economy and national security at a time it seeks to increase defense spending.

Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba has described the situation as "a silent emergency" and has promised to promote more flexible working environment and other measures that would help married couples to balance work and parenting, especially in rural areas where family values tend to be more conserva-

tive and harder on women. The Health Ministry's latest data showed that Japan's fertility rate—the average number of babies a woman is expected to have in her lifetime—also fell to a new low of 1.15 in 2024, from 1.2 a year earlier. The number of marriage was slightly up, to 485,063 couples, but the downturn since the 1970s remains unchanged.

Experts say the government measures have not addressed a growing number of young people reluctant to marry, while focusing largely on couples already married and plan to have or already had children. The younger

generation are increasingly reluctant to marry or have children due to bleak job prospects, a high cost of living and a gender-

biased corporate culture that adds extra burden only on women and working mothers, experts say. □



People walk along a pedestrian crossing at a shopping street Wednesday, June 4, 2025, in Tokyo.

Associated Press

U.S. and Europe trade negotiators say progress but no breakthroughs on tariff talks in Paris

By CATHERINE GASCHKA,
SAM McNEIL and PAUL
WISEMAN

PARIS (AP) — Europe and the United States say progress has been made but there were no breakthroughs during a meeting in Paris to negotiate a settlement of a tense tariff spat with worldwide economic ramifications between two global economic powerhouses.

The European Union's top trade negotiator, Maroš Šefčovič, met Wednesday with his American counterpart, U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer, on the sidelines of a meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

"I am pleased that negotiations are advancing quickly," said Greer. He said the EU negotiators showed a "willingness by the EU to work with us to find a concrete way forward to achieve reciprocal trade. I look forward to continued constructive engagement in the coming days and



The "Cosco Shipping France" container ship is moored at the Long Beach Container Terminal, LBCT, at Middle Harbor in the Port of Long Beach, Calif., April 15, 2025.

Associated Press

weeks."

"We're advancing in the right direction at pace," Šefčovič said at a news conference. He said ongoing technical meetings between EU and U.S. negotiators in Washington would be followed by a video conference between himself and Greer to "assess

the progress and chart the way forward."

Brussels and Washington are unlikely to reach a substantive trade agreement in Paris. The issues dividing them are too difficult to resolve quickly.

President Donald Trump regularly fumes about America's persistent trade

deficit with the European Union, which was a record \$161 billion last year, according to the U.S. Commerce Department.

Trump blames the gap between what the U.S. sells and what it buys from Europe on unfair trade practices and often criticizes the EU's 10% tax on import-

ed cars. America's tax on imported cars was 2.5% until Trump raised it to 25% in April. The EU has argued its purchases of U.S. services, especially in the technology sector, all but overcome the deficit.

After the Trump administration's surprise tariffs on steel last week rattled global markets and complicated the ongoing, wider tariff negotiations between Brussels and Washington, the EU on Monday said it is preparing "countermeasures" against the U.S.

The EU has offered the U.S. a "zero for zero" deal which would see both sides end tariffs on industrial goods, including autos. Trump has rejected that idea, but EU officials say it's still on the table.

The EU could buy more liquefied natural gas and defense items from the U.S., and reduce duties on cars, but it is not likely to budge on calls to scrap the value added tax, which is akin to a sales tax, or open up the EU to American beef. □

Peru allows miners to seek permits in area removed from Nazca Lines protection

By STEVEN GRATTAN
Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Peru announced Tuesday that miners who had been operating illegally in a large protected archaeological reserve around the famous Nazca Lines will now be able to start the process of

obtaining mining permits, after the government reduced the protected area by 42%.

Energy and Mines Minister Jorge Montero said those working in the area must now legalize their mining activities since the zone is no longer designated as

archaeological heritage. "You're fully illegal when you operate in a place where mining is banned ... but since that cultural heritage restriction no longer exists, they're no longer in violation they'll need to formalize their operations," Montero said in a press conference in Lima on Tuesday for correspondents working for the international media. He added that the government does not yet know how many miners are currently active there.

The area in question forms part of a UNESCO-recognized World Heritage Site, home to the Nazca Lines massive geoglyphs etched into the desert thousands of years ago and one of Peru's most fragile desert ecosystems.

Last week, the Ministry of Culture issued a resolution reducing the protected

area around the Nazca Lines by 2,397 square kilometers (925 square miles). The reserve, created in 1993, was set at 5,633 square kilometers (2,175 square miles) in 2004.

"It's incredible how the government is not even interested in the heritage of our ancestors that is unprotected, and will be destroyed without any control," Peruvian environmental lawyer, Cesar Ipenza, told The Associated Press. Ipenza said once the miners enter, they will create huge environmental impacts, and will not assume responsibility.

"And now that the government has released the area from its protection, mining petitions have already started to appear," he said. Culture Minister Fabricio Valencia said the reduction was based on "over

20 years of rigorous studies" and that the true archaeological reserve is about 3,200 square kilometers (1,235 square miles). On Saturday, he acknowledged on local Peruvian media that mining was taking place within the reserve.

Valencia said the UNESCO World Heritage site that contains the Nazca Lines themselves, covering about 450 square kilometers (174 square miles), was not affected by the change.

The AP reviewed the resolution but found no details about the studies justifying the reduction.

Requests for those studies went unanswered and UNESCO told AP it had not been notified by Peru of the change and that it will seek information from the government. □



Geoglyphs known as the Nazca Lines are visible next to the Pan American Highway in La Pampa de Nazca, Peru, May 17, 2023.

Associated Press

Aruba's first Ombudsman and what she can mean for you

(Oranjestad)—Last year Aruba marked a milestone with the introduction of the first Ombudsman of Aruba. Jurima Bryson, appointed on October 1st 2024, is proud to represent Aruba and is prepared to help both locals and tourists with their concerns.

What is the role of the Ombudsman?

In a nutshell, the Ombudsman is the middle man between you and government or semi-government agencies. This means that as a local or as a visitor of Aruba, you can file a complaint to the bureau of the Ombudsman against government and semi-government agencies.

Already left the island? No problem. The Ombudsman of Aruba can still receive

and handle your complaint even from abroad. You only have to provide a way for them to reach you.

Because this is the first time Aruba has an Ombudsman, the bureau office is still not in operation, but Ombudsman Bryson assured that the office will be open sometime in the second half of the year. In the mean time, you can follow the bureau on Instagram and Facebook. "We provide almost daily information so they can understand the role of the Ombudsman, what she can do for them and which kinds of complaints they can submit."

Follow the ombudsman on Instagram: @ombudsmanaruba and Facebook: Ombudsman Aruba. □



Aruban snacks and where to find them



ORANJESTAD — Want to taste something different for a change? How about some Aruban snacks that you can find all around the island? Hop in your car, and go to these locations to find some of the

most popular and tasty snacks that are beloved by our locals.

One of the staples of Aruban cuisine and snacks is the Pastechi. Pastechi is a Caribbean fried pastry that is filled with cheese, meat, chicken, veggies and sometimes even fish! Or perhaps you might want to try a croquette, locally called a "kroket," which is a crusty fried snack with typically a meat and dough mix filling. The Aruban kroket is based on its Dutch counterpart, the "bitterbal".

These two snacks are typically found in all local snack trucks, which can be found all over the island, including on the side of the main road that stretches from San Nicolas to the Hotel Area. You can also find pastechis and krokets at local bakeries and snack shops, like Bright Bakery in Piedra Plat, Huchada in Santa Cruz or Pastechi House in the city center. These



places may also sell other snacks and sandwiches too, perfect for on-the-road lunch break.

While you're at it, why not accompany your snack with a refreshing "batido"? Batidos are fruit shakes, typically made with added milk for some creaminess. However, you can also ask to hold the milk. Batidos are commonly found in snack shops too. You may find some batido shops next the flea markets downtown, or if you're on your way to San Nicolas, at Mauchi Smoothies and Juice Bar in Savaneta (located at the side of the main road).

If you are looking for something a bit more fresh and healthy, why not try some coconuts, or shaved ice from local vendors? These vendors carry their little shop at the back of

their truck, so they are ever-moving around the island. However, there are a few spots where you can almost always find a coconut/shaved ice vendor:

1. Right next to the Red Anchor in San Nicolas, on the way to Baby Beach.
2. Along the main road next to the airport field.
3. At the California Light House.
4. At the Alto Vista Chapel.

These vendors may also sell other delights, like the beloved coconut-based dessert "cocada" or peanuts. All in all, in Aruba, you can always find some place to take a break and have a bite of something local, you maybe just might have to look for them! □



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For more information, please visit The Casino VIP Desk.

The Casino at St. Regis, Aruba encourages responsible gaming.

400K

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The Casino at St. Regis Announces the Re-Launch of Its Spectacular \$400,000 Cash Giveaway Campaign

ORANJESTAD – The Casino at St. Regis is thrilled to announce the re-launch of its highly anticipated Cash Giveaway Campaign 2025, giving guests the opportunity to win a share of a remarkable \$400,000 in cash prizes. The campaign will officially run from June 1st through December 26th, offering months of exciting game play and prize opportunities for casino guests.

After already awarding over \$130,000 in cash prizes to previous winners, The Casino at The St. Regis Aruba has decided to reset and reinstate the original prize total of \$400,000. This exciting move reflects the casino's ongoing commitment to rewarding even more players with even bigger prizes, ensuring that more guests have the chance to walk away with life-changing winnings.

Guests will receive one raffle ticket for every 80 points earned or \$40 in theoretical win throughout the campaign period. A total of 50 finalists will be selected via multiple entry routes. These include 29 finalists drawn through weekly drawings, 10 finalists determined by the Top Player Points Race, 1 finalist selected as a Pop-up Finalist, and an additional 10 finalists who will be chosen during the Final Rush Drawing toward the end of the campaign.

The excitement will culminate in a spectacular Grand Finale on December 26th, 2025, when two grand prize winners will be announced. One winner will walk away with \$100,000 in cash, while the final grand prize winner will receive an impressive \$300,000 in cash, closing out the campaign in truly unforgettable fashion.

To mark the occasion, the elegant Ventura Bar at The Casino at St. Regis Aruba will prepare a special signature cocktail, elevating the event with a refined and celebratory touch. The official launch of the campaign was held on Saturday evening, where local media outlets were in attendance, mingling with guests and enjoying the festive atmosphere as anticipation for the campaign began to grow.

"We're excited to bring back one of our most popular campaigns, giving our guests not only thrilling gaming experiences but also unforgettable opportunities to walk away with life-changing prizes," said Joanna Maya, Multi-Property Casino Marketing Manager.

For more information on how to participate, eligibility, and the campaign schedule, guests are encouraged to visit The Casino at St. Regis Aruba or speak directly with one of the casino hosts. As an added bonus, all visitors to the casino on Sundays will receive one free entry into the sweepstake.

About The Casino at St. Regis Aruba

Located within the luxurious grounds of recently inaugurated The St. Regis Aruba Resort, The Casino offers an elevated gaming experience with unmatched service, ambiance, and entertainment. The casino continues to set the standard for luxury gaming in the Caribbean.□

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Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | The Lazy Lizard

Shalom Hair & Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin Donuts

Treasure Cove | El Patio Tacos & Tequila | M8 Boutique

Fusion Restaurant, Tapas, Wine & Piano Bar

Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our Picuda!

(Oranjestad)—If you're ever planning on snorkeling during your vacation on Aruba, you may spot fish that you can't recognize. One of these may be the "Picuda", a very common fish that swims all year long in the waters of Aruba. Here's some information about the beloved Picuda.

Let's talk about the names of fish. Do you know your fish? This is an informative article that illustrate some fish and their names in Papiamento, which the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, known as "Santa Rosa", wants to share and also obtain information from the public.

Picuda, Sphyraena barracuda, Greater Barracuda

Well known is the Picuda on the island—Baracuda in English. Its scientific name is Sphyraena barracuda. It is a widely caught fish. It is found throughout the year in our waters, where it is a so-called "ambush predator" that stays still or floats in the water waiting for its prey to approach so it can attack it with lightning speed.

It is well known for fishermen, especially for its white flesh in fish soup. In fishing culture, there are many other names, such as Pecho blanco, Blekito, Banana, or Bleki. The names vary according to size.

Description

The Picuda is a long fish, with a round body like a torpedo and silver in color with shiny black stripes. Below, that is, the belly, is whiter, while the top part is darker. Its snout is very pointed, and the lower jaw is longer than the upper one. Its peduncle, where the body meets the tail, is thick, while the tail also forms a crescent but in this case one more "full" than that of mullet or conefish. This reflects the hunting style of the Picuda. It needs to be able to accelerate quickly when the prey gets close.

In Aruba:

Picuda can be found in our waters around our island throughout the year. Picuda, in our wa-



Picuda
Greater Barracuda
Sphyraena barracuda

ters, is edible without any problem. Picuda is also a highly sought-after fish by sports fishermen or recreational fishermen because it puts up a good fight once hooked. It can be caught via trolling from a boat, casting from shore with a line or rod, or by jigging, casting the lure (artificial bait) and moving it with certain rod motions.□

Picture courtesy of the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries.

You are cordially invited to the Adoption Day at Nine Lives Aruba Foundation!

You are cordially invited to the Adoption Day at Nine Lives Aruba Foundation, which will take place this Saturday, June 7th, at the Foundation, located at Jaburibari 8B. It will be a wonderful day of cuddles, love and new beginnings!

Nine Lives Aruba Foundation is dedicated primarily to rescuing cats in Aruba. They work tirelessly to help all



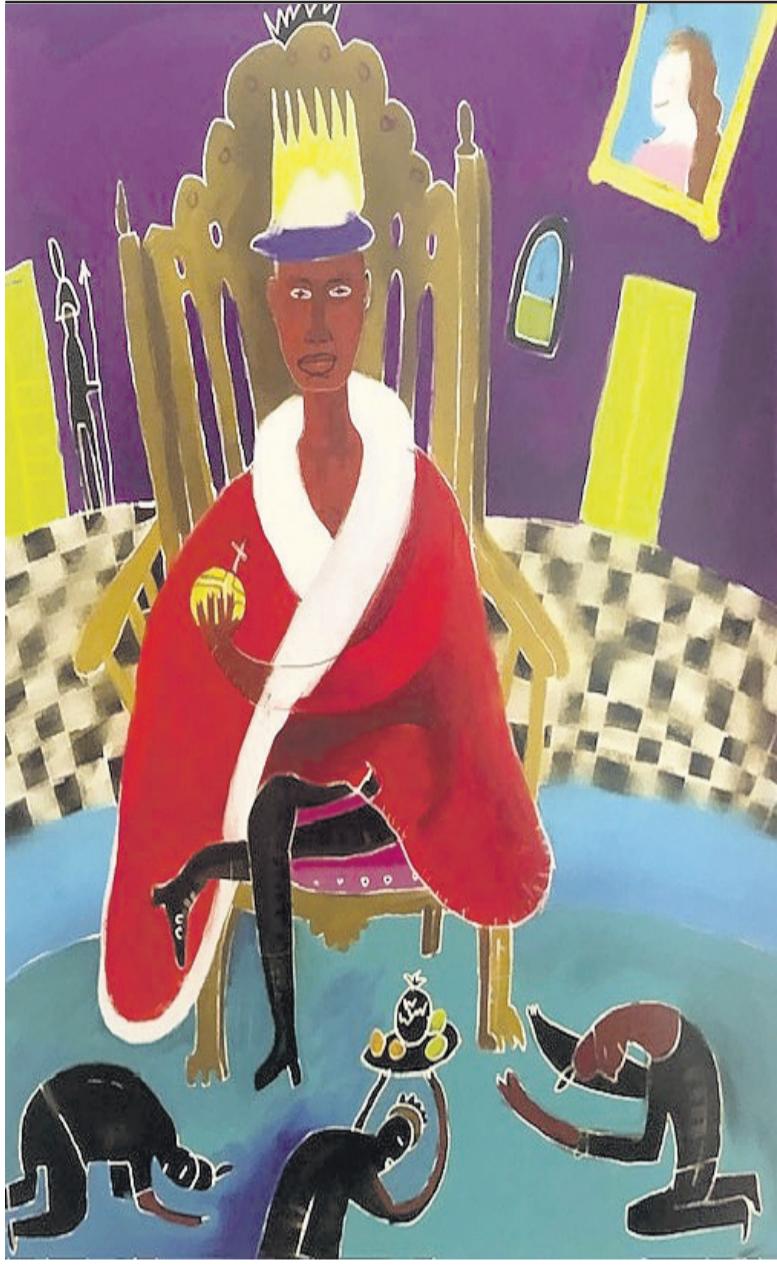
animals that are mistreated, homeless, hurt or in need of assistance and care. During the spring season, usually a lot of kittens are born, and this puts a lot of pressure on the re-



cuers and volunteers. You can help through a donation, and by adopting one of these beautiful kittens – aside from it being



a good deed, you can gain a loyal, loving and fun little companion! Come along to meet the foundation and spend time with the furry residents. Come to connect, and who knows, maybe you will even fall in love.□



The stories of “Compa Nanzi”

(Oranjestad)—The most popular character you may hear about in the Caribbean is Anansi, known locally on Aruba as “Compa Nanzi”. Local children grew up hearing the tales of the conniving spider, and his legacy forms part of the oral narrative tradition that is common in Aruba.

Although the stories are most popular in the Caribbean, “Compa Nanzi” is not entirely unknown globally, especially not in the West African region. Brought to the “new world” by enslaved Africans from Ghana, the historical thread of how Nanzi was introduced on Aruba follows the enslaved Africans in Curacao during the colonial era, which saw the biggest population of enslaved Africans in the Dutch Caribbean.

The stories of Compa Nanzi were a sign of hope for freedom among the slaves, who passed around different stories involving the famous spider through word of mouth, due to not being able to express their native culture in the new world. These stories were a way to not only preserve their culture, but it acted as a medium for relief during the harsh treatment to which they were subjected to.

It wasn't until the end of the nineteenth century that the stories of Nanzi were written down in different languages. However, not all stories are completely alike in every country, as is the risk of oral story telling. However, one thing will always be dominant in Compa Nanzi's stories: his sneaky ways to get what he wants!

How Nanzi fooled the king

One day Nanzi was taking a stroll near the castle of Shon Arei, the king. He had this sudden urge to walk in. He didn't think too much about it and committed to what he had in mind. It was a warm afternoon, and the castle personnel were taking their afternoon nap. Even the soldier guarding the castle door was fast asleep, snoring so loud that his beard bounced up and down on his chin. Nanzi just slipped past him, looked back for a moment then walk right on in.

Nanzi stumbled upon the king's quarters. With all his excitement he sat in the king's throne, and put on his crown that was hanging on the side of the throne. It was very hot that day, and it wasn't long until Nanzi too fell asleep, right there on the king's throne. He was so deep in sleep and snoring so loud, that even when the king found him in his seat, Nanzi did not even notice.

Shon Arei was flabbergasted by the sight of Nanzi on his throne, wearing his crown. How disrespectful! “Soldiers, get him!” he commanded. Nanzi was sound asleep, but when the soldiers picked him up, he jumped from fright. By then though, the soldier already had him in their hold.

“Put him in a sack, stitch it up and throw him in the ocean!” the king said furiously. Two soldiers immediately entered the chamber, took the crown off Nanzi's head and pushed him in a sack.

Nanzi was terrified; it looks like this time

he won't get away with his schemes. To get to the ocean, the soldier walked a long distance, and where beginning to feel very thirsty. Luckily they passed by a pub, and decided to have a nice cold beer. They set the sack with Nanzi in it outside and went to enjoy the refreshments. Nanzi was still trembling with fear in the sack.

What is that he hears? A herd of sheep walking by?

“Compadre, listen here!” Nanzi screamed as loud as he could. The sheep herder got close to the sack. “What is this?”

“Man, there is something very beautiful in here that you can see. It's very rare and strange, but indeed, there is something so beautiful in here that you've never seen or will ever see,” Nanzi told the herder.

The herder, very dumb, believed Nanzi's word. “Let me see!” he said.

“Well if you must insist,” Nanzi said, “I'll let you take a look, but only for a quick second.” The herder opened the sack, and Nanzi immediately jumped out. Before the herder could even take a look into the sack, Nanzi pushed him in it, and the herder fell head first in.

Nanzi didn't waste any time, and closed off the sack real tight. He then picked up the herder's hat and starting walking behind the traveling sheep as if nothing happened. After a little while, the soldiers headed back outside to continue their journey. As they picked up the sack, the poor herder started screaming to let him out, but the soldiers ignored him, thinking it was Nanzi.

Shon Arei went strolling a while later. He thought to himself: “This time Nanzi could not get away with his foolishness. He probably drowned in that sack ages ago.” That is why, when he saw Nanzi walk behind the herd of sheep on the street, he was flabbergasted again. “Nanzi! Aren't you suppose to be at the bottom of the ocean floor?”

“I was, Your Majesty,” Nanzi replied. But you know what, there is so many things to see down there in the sack! Like this herd of sheep. Seeing that they had no herder, I started walking behind them and gained their trust pretty quickly. At the bottom of the ocean there are so many wonderful things, like diamonds, and bags of gold. Chests of silver and other precious stones,” Nanzi told the king.

“What is that you say?” the king was intrigued. “I want to see it too!”

The king immediately demanded to his soldiers to be put in a sack and be placed in the ocean. Naturally, Shon Arei died because of this. He was never found again. Nanzi followed the soldier back to the castle, where sat once again on the late king's thrown and put his crown on. He took possession of all of Shon Arei's belongings, and lived the rest of his life as king. □

Story and pictures are from “Kon Nanzi a Nek Shon Arei (i otro kuentanan antiano di e araña sabi)” by Nilda Pinto.

The Aruban Cunukero

From past to present

(Oranjestad)—Aruba's culture consists of rich historical traditions that make up the Aruban identity and lifestyle. However, the life of the cunukero (farmer) is perhaps the most important aspect of our culture, in a sense representing to locals the true essence of the Aruban.

Historically, cunucus (farms) played a huge role in the early social and economic development of Aruba, and its relevance dates back to the early days of the colonization era. Upon being discovered by Spanish conquistadors in the late 15th century, Aruba was used primarily as a ranch, housing horses and cattle brought from Europe. During the Dutch colonization era where the West Indian Company (WIC) dominated the economic sphere on the island, using the land to set up cattle farms and ranches remained popular.

Anthropologist Sidney Mintz divided Caribbean farmers back in four categories:

1. The "squatters", who were mostly comprised of illegal and poor colonists, runaway slaves and deserters who took advantage of the Spanish's weak supervision on Caribbean islands like Cuba and the DR;
2. Then you have "Early Yeomen", who were legal farmers who came to the west under contract. Once their contract expired, they were given a plot of land for independent use;
3. Proto-Peasants were plantation slaves who were allowed to have a small piece of land to grow food for their own consumption. This was to curb the cost of living on the plantations;
4. Lastly you have the "Runaway Peasantries", usually comprised of runaway slaves



who acquired farming tools and cattle through stealing or through secret exchanges with other slaves from different plantations.

However, the Aruban cunukeros back then are hard to place, and their history may explain why.

From 1636 (beginning of Dutch colonization era) to before the oil industry in 1924, Aruba's population consisted of mostly farmers. These farmers were mostly indigenous and were characterized as peasants. They weren't allowed to participate in trading, but instead were granted a piece of land to live off of. However, in exchange for this grant, these indigenous farmers were obligated to work for the WIC, doing daily tasks such as taking care of or hunting cattle—large majority of which were destined for Curacao, clean water tanks and chop wood, among other things.

As much as these farmers were given the opportunity to live "free" with a plot of land, their exclusion from the trading and business world, as well as being deprived the chance to become real property and cattle owners, made them a unique group among Caribbean farmers at the time.

The WIC placed a lot of restrictions on these indigenous farmers—a method to safeguard their cattle deposit on the island. The indigenous farmers were mostly granted less than 7 acres of land. Those who owned bigger land were either once affiliated with the WIC or were colonists who settled on the island to try their luck at farming. In 1767, there were about 120 houses/cunucus on the island.

farmers would see a big loss in their livestock, and hence profit.

Although the WIC at one point did try to come up with an initiative to get more people to have land on the island, the climate never really allowed real profit from farming. Because of the climate, Aruban farmers in general could not keep large quantities of livestock. At a certain point toward the end of the 18th century, the climate got so bad that many farmers decided to leave the island for a while.

For this reason, the farming economy on the island remained small. As the years went by and people noticed that these farms could not really produce any sustainable profit, farmers kept their small piece of land just to live off of. This is why the Aruban cunukeros only played a very tiny role into the plantation economy.

In modern Aruba, cunucus and cunukeros still exist on the island, fortunately with more freedom and more opportunity to tap into the agricultural market. These farmers usually sell their produce on a smaller scale, like during farmers' market events and other types of (holiday) events.

Source: "Arubaans Akkoord: Opstellen over Aruba van voor de komst van de olieindustrie (Aruban Accord: Essays on Aruba Before the Arrival of the Oil Industry)" by Alofs, Luc; Rutgers, Wim; Coomans, Henny E. red.

Photo credits: Aruba National Archives.

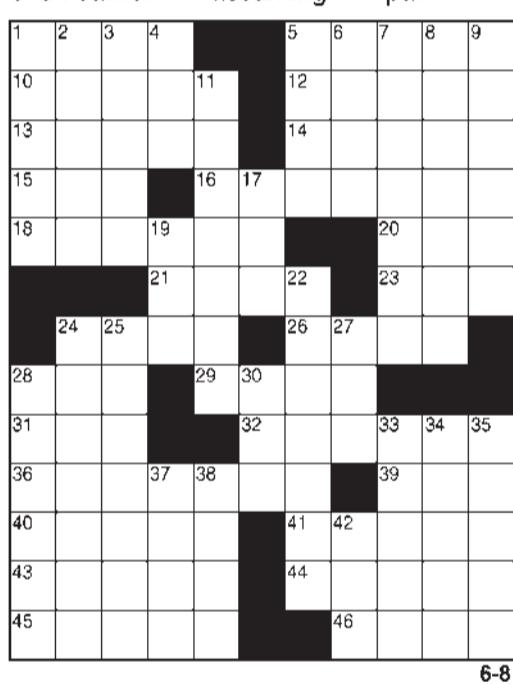


CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 43 Deli
- 1 Pleat fixture
- 5 Work byproduct Canyon's cousin
- 10 Distant 44 Scientist Nikola
- 12 Bamboo eater 46 Looked over
- 13 Sorceress of myth
- 14 Inert gas DOWN
- 15 Cain's mother
- 16 Hamlet's home
- 18 Broncos' home
- 20 "Golly!"
- 21 Persia, today
- 23 Go astray
- 24 Showed up
- 26 Says further
- 28 Periodical, for short
- 29 Malek of "Bohemian Rhapsody"
- 31 Keats work
- 32 Casual pants
- 36 Crown repairer
- 39 Old hand
- 40 Finished
- 41 Love, to Luigi



6-8

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

6-8

CRYPTOQUOTE

A G D D Q U Z T V S D T P N D Q X D ,
U D V U Z T V S D N P A S V , V S D
K R Q V S R Y B H Q D V G D K W N D M
N P L D Z W H V V D G Y N E .
— O Z W N R Q D G H M Z

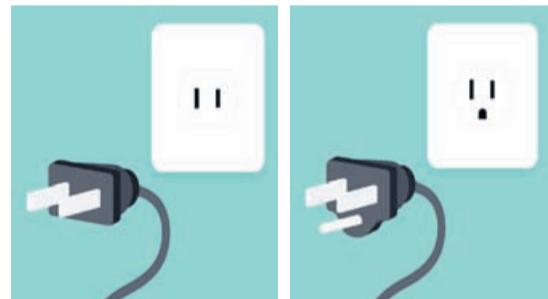
Cryptoquote: IF MY LIFE WASN'T FUNNY IT WOULD JUST BE TRUE, AND THAT IS UNACCEPTABLE. — CARRIE FISHER

Cruise ship Schedule: June 01 - 27 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH
SUN	01	SILVER SHADOW FREEWINDS - Dept.	08.00 ****	23.00 22.30	C E 1 -
WED	04	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	C 1
TUE	10	CARNIVAL HORIZON CARNIVAL MARDI GRAS	09.00 13.00	23.00 23.00	C I 1
TUE	17	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS CARNIVAL VISTA	07.00 13.00	16.00 23.00	B C 1
WED	18	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS OASIS OF THE SEAS	08.00 08.00 07.00	22.00 23.00 16.00	C B I 1
TUE	24	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C 1
FRI	27	SEVEN SEAS MARINER	10.00	21.00	C 1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.



Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

3 surprising market winners in 2025

Dan Lefkovitz of Morningstar

Investors brave enough to peek at their account statements know that it's been a rocky 2025.

Even before tariff-related volatility, DeepSeek AI's launch clouded the major technology theme that powered the market in 2023 and 2024, as AI stocks entered a bear market in March.

But there have been equity gains to be had in 2025. When I look at year-to-date returns across indexes, I notice a few surprising stars: European stocks, Latin America, and real estate investment trusts.

The common thread that connects the three? All had been underperformers in prior years.

European stocks have been made great again. Morningstar's European stock index is riding high this year, as the macroeconomic environment has been improving. The financial-services sector, in particular, is a key beneficiary. Then there's Germany's newfound interest in deficit spending and the continent's focus on military self-sufficiency, spurred by the Donald Trump administration.

US tariff announcements caused sharp selloffs in Europe, but the recovery has been V-shaped. A weakening US dollar has magnified European equity gains



This Oct. 24, 2016 file photo shows dollar bills in New York.
Associated Press

for unhedged US investors.

It doesn't hurt that the European Central Bank and the Bank of England have actually been cutting interest rates.

My research and investment colleagues have called Europe "the most attractive developed-markets region globally," making European stocks worthy of inclusion in a diversified portfolio.

Latin America: Can the revival last?

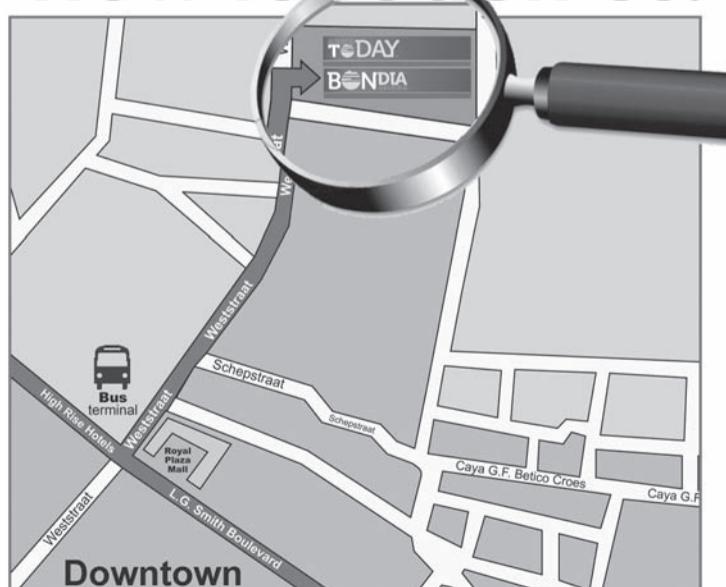
South of the US border, stocks are rallying.

Morningstar's Latin American equities index is up more than 22% so far in 2025, thanks to Brazil, Mexico, and the smaller markets of Colombia and Chile. Here, too, a weakening dollar has boosted equity returns for unhedged US investors. □

ARUBA TODAY

BONDIA ARUBA

How to reach us!



Downtown

Classifieds



HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel. 524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:
del Pueblo: Tel. 582 1253
San Nicolas:
Centro Medico: Tel. 584 5794

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank	
Tel. 588 0002	
FAVI- Visually Impaired	
Tel. 582 5051	
Alcoholics Anonymous	
Tel. 736 2952	
Narcotics Anonymous	
Tel. 583 8989	
Fundacion Contra Violencia	
Relacional Tel. 583 5400	
Centre for Diabetes	
Tel. 524 8888	
Child Abuse Prevention	
Tel. 582 4433	
Quota Club Tel. 525 2672	

General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

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Gold season
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2 BR Ocean Side \$12,000
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5 min drive to palm beach and eagle beach
3 BR 2 bath with 2 Appartments
Price :\$ 650,000
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Condo for sale

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5 min drive to eagle and palm beach
Aruba live
2 BR 2 Bath ground floor
Price :\$450,000
Call :011-297-630-1307

Condo for sale

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Palm Aruba
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2 BR 3 bath
Price :\$550,000
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House for sale

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Divi Village

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1 BR WK # 24 room # 3202
20 weeks remain contract expire :2045
Price :\$5000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

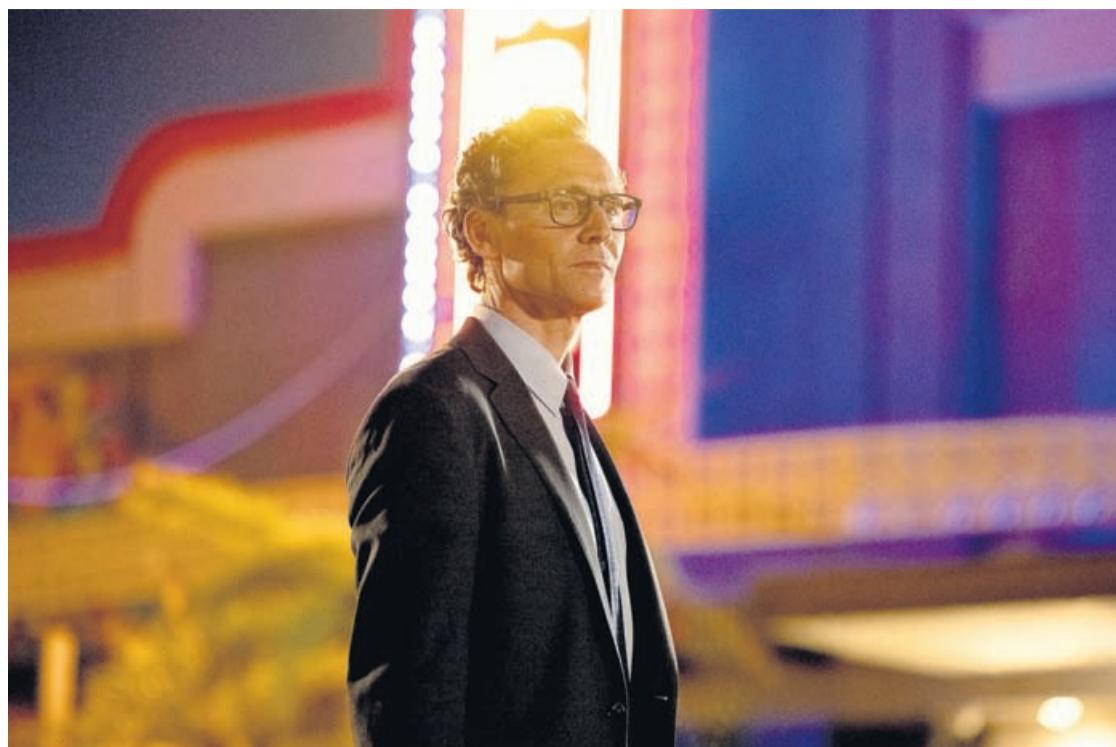
Tom Hiddleston leads the cosmic puzzle that is 'Life of Chuck'

By LINDSEY BAHR

AP Film Writer

"Life of Chuck" is a peculiar movie with grandiose ambitions. It teases out a cosmic mystery about life and some guy named Charles Krantz (Tom Hiddleston) in a story told in reverse chronological order that gets smaller and smaller with each act. This is a story that begins with the apocalypse and ends with a middle school dance. Well, kind of. I'm not out to spoil (much) here.

It's based on a novella by Stephen King (part of his "If It Bleeds" collection of stories) and adapted by filmmaker Mike Flanagan, who was also behind "Gerald's Game" and "Doctor Sleep." This, however, is not a horror movie, though there are spooky elements laden with ominous ambiguity. There are also big, joyful dance numbers, a fair share of cynical jokes, whimsical narration from Nick Offerman, earnest conversations about the end of the world and plenty of references to Walt Whitman's "Song of Myself" in particularly "I am large, I contain multitudes." That is most movingly conveyed in a sweet scene with a



This image released by Neon shows Tom Hiddleston in a scene from "The Life of Chuck."

Associated Press

teacher (Kate Siegel) and a middle school aged Chuck (Benjamin Pajak) on the last day of school. "Life of Chuck" wants to make you think, feel, laugh and cry about the most mundane of characters: Krantz, a white, American, middle-aged accountant, whose life is modest and whose childhood was full of tragedy and loss. And while I certainly enjoyed elements of this odyssey in reverse, I was ultimately

left feeling very little especially about Chuck and the questionable end-of-film explanation that ties it all together.

Hiddleston, it should be said, is not in "Life of Chuck" as much as one might expect for being the titular character. His presence looms large certainly it's why we're here. But, in reality, Hiddleston as a performer is more of an ensemble player among a sea of recognizable faces.

In the third act, which opens the film, he's everywhere on billboards and television ads, cheerily smiling in a nondescript grey suit, coffee cup in one hand, pencil in another. "Charles Krantz. 39 great years! Thanks Chuck!" the signs read. It's the background until it's all that's left as the world appears to be ending. The internet has gone out. Parts of California have drifted into the Pacific. En-

vironmental disasters rage. Suicides are skyrocketing. Hail Mary life decisions are being made. And poor Marty (Chiwetel Ejiofor) is just trying to do his job as a school teacher. His parent-teacher conferences have become parent therapy sessions. Everyone a maintenance guy (Matthew Lillard), a funeral director (Carl Lumbly) seems to want to philosophize about what's going on, and who the heck Chuck is. He has big conversations about the history of the universe with his ex-wife (Karen Gillan). And together they wait for the end.

In act two, a grown Chuck (Hiddleston) dances in the street in a joyful six-minute sequence. Compelled to move when he hears the beat of a street drummer (Taylor Gordon), he even pulls in a stranger to join him (Annalise Basso).

In act one, he's a kid (Pajak) who has lost both his parents and unborn sister in a car accident and is living with his grandparents (Mark Hamill and Mia Sara, who it's nice to have back on screen). It's during this segment, which comprises nearly half the movie, that he learns to dance. □

Ex-White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre left Democratic Party, publisher of her book says

By HILLEL ITALIE

AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Former

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre has a book out this fall that

promises a close look at President Biden's decision not to run for reelection and calls for thinking beyond the two-party system. Jean-Pierre herself has switched her affiliation to independent after working in two Democratic administrations, according to Legacy Lit, a Hachette Book Group imprint that will publish "Independent: A Look Inside a Broken White House, Outside the Party Lines" on Oct. 21.

"Until January 20, I was responsible for speaking on behalf of the President of the United States," Jean-Pierre, the first Black woman and openly gay person to hold the position of White House press secretary, said in a statement

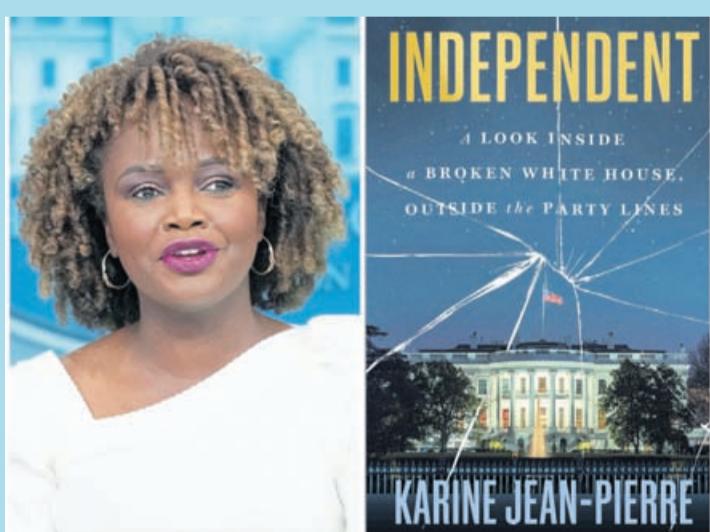
released Wednesday.

"At noon on that day, I became a private citizen who, like all Americans and many of our allies around the world, had to contend with what was to come next for our country. I determined that the danger we face as a country requires freeing ourselves of boxes. We need to be willing to exercise the ability to think creatively and plan strategically."

Jean-Pierre, 50, succeeded Jen Psaki as press secretary in 2022 after previously serving as deputy press secretary and also working as a senior adviser during Biden's victorious 2020 campaign. During President Barack Obama's first term, she was a region-

al political director.

Jean-Pierre was criticized at times for being evasive about Biden's physical condition. Wednesday's announcement from Legacy Lit says that she will take readers "through the three weeks that led to Biden's abandoning his bid for a second term and the betrayal by the Democratic Party that led to his decision." "She presents clear arguments and provocative evidence as an insider about the importance of dismantling the torrent of disinformation and misinformation that has been rampant in recent elections and provides passionate insight for moving forward," the announcement said. □



This combination of photos shows White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre during the daily briefing at the White House in Washington, on Nov. 13, 2024, left, and the cover of her book "Independent: A Look Inside a Broken White House, Outside the Party Lines."

Associated Press

In clash of offensive firepower, defense may determine who wins NBA crown, Pacers or Thunder

By MICHAEL MAROT

AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The Indiana Pacers and Oklahoma City Thunder have two of the NBA's best offenses.

But this year's title hopes may swing on the other facet: Who has the better defense?

While both teams made major improvements from last season's respective rosters in the conference finals and conference semifinals, Pacers coach Rick Carlisle, who led Dallas on its only title run in 2010-11 knows just how difficult the challenge can be, especially against Oklahoma City.

"Their depth of great defenders is staggering," he said before listing names.

"Shai (Gilgeous-Alexander) is a great scorer, but he's also a great competitor. You've got Jalen Williams, you've got (Lu) Dort, you've got (Alex) Caruso, and a bunch of other guys. People talk about (Aaron) Wiggins, Cason Wallace and all these guys are great competitors. And then they've got the rim protection to go along with it."



Minnesota Timberwolves guard Anthony Edwards (5) works toward the basket as Oklahoma City Thunder forward Chet Holmgren (7) and guard Luguentz Dort (5) defend during the second half of Game 5 of the Western Conference finals of the NBA basketball playoffs, Wednesday, May 28, 2025, in Oklahoma City.

That combination helped the Thunder win a league-high 68 regular-season games while earning the top seed in the Western Conference for the second straight year.

Apparently, it was just a warmup. During the franchise's first Finals run since 2012, the Thunder's scor-

ing defense has been even stingier allowing just 106.3 points per game compared with 107.6 over the first 82 games while yielding fewer than 100 points in half of their 12 postseason wins.

While Indiana has not matched those numbers, they eliminated three

teams New York, Cleveland and Milwaukee that each averaged more than 115 points during the regular season. In 16 playoff games, they held those three teams below their averages 11 times.

Naturally, Thunder coach Mark Daigneault has been taking notes.

Associated Press

"If you look at this playoff run, you'll see how challenging they are for their opponents, and the way they defend contributes to their team identity. It's not just offense," he said. "Their defensive philosophy is very much aligned with their offensive philosophy, so it creates a certain air to the game when you play against them. It is difficult to play against, as you can see from the way that they've really run through the Eastern Conference to get here."

Their rosters were constructed in similar fashions, too.

Both teams are young, rely on deep benches to wear down opponents late and feast on turnovers. The Thunder average a post-season best 21.3 points per game off turnovers while the Pacers are second at 18.5.

But with so much focus on the high-scoring, up-tempo offenses, it's easy to overlook their defenses or worse see it as a glaring weakness.

A year ago, Indiana gave up 120.2 points per game in the regular season. □

NHL is expanding use of Hawk-Eye measuring and tracking. It may eventually solve some on-ice issues

By STEPHEN WHYNO

AP Hockey Writer

Commissioner Gary Bettman at the NHL general managers meeting this spring had a clear answer for when the league might be able to use tracking technology to determine a variety of things with certainty, from high-sticking to whether a puck fully crossed the goal line.

"When we're certain that it works," Bettman said at the time. "We will test it and re-test it, but we haven't hesitated to spend the money or the time on technology to improve the game."

The NHL is taking another step in that innovation with the expansion of the use of Hawk-Eye measuring

and tracking technology as part of a new technology partnership with Sony announced Wednesday, hours before the start of the Stanley Cup Final.

The same technology that has become omnipresent in tennis to determine whether the ball is in or out has evolved to the point that it could help hockey officials and the league's situation room make more precise calls for close plays on the ice. "We're closer we keep getting closer," NHL executive VP of business development and innovation David Lehanski said.

"It's going to be a solution that includes multiple inputs and different types of technology. ... Likely it will

be a combination of active tracking in the puck, in the players, the jerseys wherever it might be optical cameras and maybe some other type of technology that all need to get stitched together."

The league has used Sony's Hawk-Eye technology for the past decade as part of Synchronized Multi-Angle Replay Technology (SMART) services in every team's arena to make replay reviews and coach's challenges faster and more accurate. It also helps organizations keep track of player health and safety.

The technology has improved to the point where cameras capture 29 skeletal points on each player

and three more on sticks. "What that enables us to do is to have an incredibly high-fidelity, low-latency view of the athletes' movements in real time," Hawk-Eye Innovations CEO Rufus Hack said. □



Edmonton Oilers goalie Stuart Skinner (74) makes a save on Adam Henrique (19) during practice, Tuesday, June 3, 2025, in Edmonton, Alberta, ahead of Game 1 of the NHL hockey Stanley Cup final series against the Florida Panthers.

Associated Press

French Open: Coco Gauff will face a Frenchwoman ranked 361st. No. 1 Sinner wins

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP Tennis Writer

PARIS (AP) — That No. 2 seed Coco Gauff reached Thursday's French Open semifinals should surprise no one. Her 361st-ranked opponent for a berth in the title match? That's a whole other story.

Gauff made it to the final four at Roland-Garros for the third time, getting past No. 7 Madison Keys 6-7 (6), 6-4, 6-1 on Wednesday in a quarterfinal between two Americans who both have won a major title.

Next up for 2023 U.S. Open champion Gauff? A matchup against French wild-card entry Loïs Boisson, who extended one of the most stunning runs



Coco Gauff of the U.S. plays a shot against Madison Keys of the U.S. during their quarterfinal match of the French Tennis Open at the Roland-Garros stadium in Paris, Wednesday, June 4, 2025.

Associated Press

in tennis history by beating No. 6 Mirra Andreeva 7-6 (6), 6-3.

"Unbelievable," Boisson said. "Incredible."

Those are a couple of good words for what's been happening.

A year ago, Boisson was supposed to make her Grand Slam debut in Paris, but she tore a knee ligament and couldn't compete. Now 22, Boisson is the first woman to get to the semifinals of her first major tournament since Monica Seles and Jennifer Capriati did it at the 1989 French Open and is the lowest-ranked to get that far at Roland-Garros in at least 40 years.

She's doing it with a game made for clay, anchored by heavy groundstrokes and buoyed by a rowdy, partisan crowd that rattled the 18-year-old Andreeva she was warned for ball abuse for smacking one toward the upper deck after one bad volley and was just as loud when Boisson upset No. 3 Jessica Pegula in the fourth round.

"I love to play with the crowd. I love to hear my name when I won a point and everything," Boisson said. "For me, it's just something plus. It's not pressure. But I think it's also really difficult for (a) player from (another) country."

Over and over again, the chair umpire tried to tell the 15,000 or so spectators to be quiet as their thunderous applause and shouts of Boisson's first name reverberated off the inside of the closed roof at Court Philippe-Chatrier. They didn't heed those requests. They jeered and whistled when Andreeva complained about noise between her first and second serves or argued line calls.

"It's normal that they would support a French player, so I knew that it's going to be like this.

I think that in the first set, I managed it pretty well (and) I didn't really pay attention to that," Andreeva said. □



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